2. Intensive patrolling in sensitive areas.
3. Deployment of more staff for protection.
4. Coordination with other law enforcement agencies.
5. Provision for arms and ammunition and communication facilities.
6. Training to frontline staff.
7. Conducting nature awareness campaigns for the public.
8. Implementation of eco development programmes in fringe villages.
9. Provision of compensation for loss of cattle and injury or death of human beings due to wildlife attack.

(d) Free ranging population of Asiatic Lion is found only in the Gir forests and its adjoining areas of Gujarat. As per the information received from the State Government, the last estimation of lion was carried out in April, 2005 and the population of lion in Gir and adjoining areas has increased to 359±10 compared to the previous estimation of 327±5 in 2001.

Problems arising out of climate changes

†2500. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to tackle problems arising out of changes in the climate;

(b) when the Council on Climate Change was constituted;

(c) the number of meetings held by it along with the decisions taken therein; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to tackle the compulsion of mandatory reduction of carbon emission as per the Kyoto Protocol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Government has recently set up an "Expert Committee on Impacts of Climate Change" under the Chairmanship of Dr. R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India. The Terms of Reference of the Committee are as under:

(i) To study the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on India.

(ii) To identify the measures that we may have to take in the future in relation to addressing vulnerability to anthropogenic climate change impacts.

(iii) Any other matter relevant to (i) and (ii) above.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Government of India is a Party to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCCC) and has set up the National Clean Development Mechanism Authority to accord Host Country Approvals (HCA) to eligible Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects. India also has the largest number of projects under the CDM of the Kyoto Protocol, which reduce net emissions of greenhouse gases.

Further, even though India as a developing country does not have any mitigation commitments, nevertheless, a sustainable development path is being followed through a range of policies and programmes to mitigate climate change:

(i) ensuring energy conservation and improved energy efficiency in various sectors as well as setting up of Bureau of Energy Efficiency

(ii) promoting use of renewable energy

(iii) power sector reforms and active renewable energy programme

(iv) use of cleaner and lesser carbon intensive fuel for transport

(v) fuel switching to cleaner energy

(vi) afforestation and conservation of forests

(vii) promotion of clean coal technologies

(viii) reduction of gas flaring

(ix) encouraging Mass Rapid Transport Systems

(x) environmental quality management for all sectors

(b) and (c) A Council chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister called "Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change" to coordinate national action for assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change was constituted on 6th June, 2007. The focus of the Council would be to:

(i) Evolve a coordinated response to issues relating to climate change at the National level;

(ii) Provide oversight for formulation of action plans in the area of assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change;

(iii) Periodically monitor key policy decisions.

The 1st meeting of the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change was held on 13th July, 2007. The summary of decisions included *inter alia* that:

(i) a National Document compiling action taken by India for addressing the challenge of climate change and the action that it proposes to take, be prepared as India's National Report on Climate Change,

(ii) a major afforestation programme called 'Green India' for greening six million hectares of degraded forestland may be finalized,

(iii) a comprehensive action plan be prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture on the agricultural agenda for the climate change,

(iv) focus on renewables, decentralized power generation and energy efficiency measures,

(v) multi-lateral funding for collaborative R&D on climate change should be pursued.

(d) As per Kyoto Protocol, the developing countries including India do not have any mitigation commitments. However, the steps taken by India as far as reduction of emissions is concerned are stated in (a) above.

Sale and purchase of captive elephants

2501. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments of Assam and Kerala have approached the Central Government to liberalize the rules relating to sale and purchase of captive elephants and whether similar suggestions have also been received from other quarters;

(b) if so, the nature of proposals received and the action taken thereon by the Central Government; and

(c) if not, the action which has so far been taken and by when the same is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The request of the State Governments to make necessary amendments in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, for relaxing the prohibition on sale and purchase of captive elephants is under consideration of the Central Government.

Recycling of sewage

2502. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the 27 million litres of sewage generated every day, our capacity is limited for treatment of only 18.6 per cent and of that, only 13.5 per cent is treated before being discharged into lakes, rivers, oceans, etc.;

(b) if so, whether our rivers are dying a slow death and Rs. 5106 crores spent on them under the Ganga Action Plan so far has gone down the drain; and

(c) whether Government would consider re-use and recycling of sewage rather than discharging it into rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. According to report